



MARICOPA COUNTY

Court Appointed Special Advocates

3125 W. Durango, Ste. 130 * Phoenix, AZ 85009
Office 602.506.4083 * Fax 602.506.5512

Vol. 3, Issue 12

A Child's Voice In Court

March 2001



"Through the Eyes of a Child" by Bill Stanton



-photo by Marilyn Priebe

As a CASA volunteer, you hear the phrase "through the eyes of a child" many times. I often have wondered how people interpret the meaning of that phrase. I would assume it means different things to each of us depending upon our experiences in life. But as an abused and neglected child, how do they really see the changes that are taking place in their lives? What do they see when meeting their CASA volunteer for the first time? What do they see when meeting their fifth or sixth caseworker? What do they see when they go to court and see their real mom or dad crying as the judge severs rights? Can any of us really see through the eyes of our CASA child? I would argue yes.

If we look into our own childhood experiences we may understand to some extent what that child is seeing. Remember when your mom would say, "wait 'til your dad gets home," or when they found out about something you did that was wrong. You could see the anger, the disappointment on their faces and sense the fear you may have felt. Now imagine those same expressions and feelings as a child that has been abused by their parents. Imagine how that child sees that case worker when being moved to a new home.

Remember what it was like to go to that big building called "school" and you met that person called "the

teacher?" Do you recall how your parents told you that this was a nice person who you could trust and, although you believed your parents, you still had those butterflies in your stomach? Perhaps that is what a child sees and feels when they meet their CASA volunteer for the first time. They have been told that you are someone who they could trust but they still see a stranger and have that feeling in their stomach. Remember what that teacher did to make you feel welcome? Did you ever ask yourself what you do to make your CASA child feel welcome and safe? Meeting that child for the first time is stressful for us as adults. But how much more stressful can it be for that child? What does that child see when they meet you?

When I hear of the saying "through the eyes of a child," it reminds me of my own children and a situation that occurred a few years ago. I was busy getting ready for work and trying to get my children ready for school and asked my youngest daughter to put her shoes on. As I came out of my bedroom, she still didn't have her shoes on. I knew that I had to get to work, after all, I have meetings to attend and phone calls to respond to. I again, in a stern voice, told my daughter to get her shoes on. She looked up at me and said, "Daddy, pretend you're Barney, and use your imagination and pretend I have my shoes on."

As a CASA volunteer perhaps "through the eyes of a child" means taking a

minute to reflect on our experiences as a child and to remember what it was like. To put aside, out of our minds that busy schedule, those telephone calls and those meetings that we must go to. To take a few moments to look at that CASA child and try to see what they are seeing. To try to see and feel what it must be like to meet that fifth case worker. When I asked my daughter to put her shoes on, perhaps if I took a moment to look at it through her eyes, she did have them on. Perhaps one of the best ways to be effective with our CASA child is to see the world "through the eyes of a child."

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From Our CASA LeaderA Respectful Goodbye.....

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the volunteers, the program and the court for the past nine years. CASA has been an important part of my life, first as a volunteer, then as a coordinator, and finally as the program manager. I have been lucky to have a job I love; a cause I believe in; and people about whom I care so much.

I especially want to thank those with whom I have worked so closely. The mentors have been a source of support for the program, the volunteers and me. The CASA staff has been wonderful. The bench has been a reliable, accessible and supportive resource for the program. Finally, the volunteers have been a source of inspiration.

The CASA program has grown, and will continue to grow and improve under new leadership and generous volunteers like you. The work you do is important and necessary. Keep it up! Thank you for all you do. - **Nancy Molever**

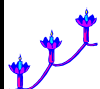
CASA'S:

Lighting a New Millennium for
Arizona's Children

-2001-

April 5 - Media Day

April 5-20, Exhibits



Goals:

1. Educate the public on the role of the CASA volunteer in the life of an abused and neglected child.
2. Gain media attention to the program.
3. Recognize the success of each county program.
4. Recruit interested applicants.

Requests for Exhibits

Volunteers: Artwork, poems and stories to be submitted by CASA children **No Later Than March 21.** Coordinators can bring the submitted work to the state program office on March 23. Each county will be asked to put together an information display board for their county.

Proposed Events Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. - Welcome to Media and Guests
- 10:15 a.m. - Comments
- 10:45 a.m. - Entertainment from a children's chorus - Lighting Ceremony
- 11:00 a.m. - CASA Volunteer Recognition
- 11:30 a.m. - Invite to View CASA Displays

(Materials submitted for displays will not be returned.)

Volunteer Profile

Karen Tyrrell

...by Liz Osborn

Mix together **Karen Tyrrell**, the Tempe Police Department, and the CASA program. The result is a professional advocate for children. A CASA brochure, on the bulletin board in the Tempe Police Department where Karen worked, asking for advocates who are willing to speak up for abused and neglected children was the call she had been looking for.

In April of this year and ten CASA children later, Karen will have been with the Maricopa County CASA Program for six years. For the last year and a half, she has been a mentor, responsible for 15-20 CASAs at any one time. She hosts meetings in her home each month for peer support and education.

Recently, Karen has become involved in the CASA program's recruiting efforts. She is also on call to make courtesy visits to potential foster or adoptive homes who are waiting for a child or children from another state to be relocated to Arizona.

Karen has lived in Phoenix since age nine and attended Phoenix Union High School. Her husband was a career military man and together they traveled widely within the United States and had two tours in Germany. He was stationed in Asia for one year during the Vietnam War, forcing Karen to become both mother and father to their three sons during his assignment.

One of her sons is a critical care nurse in the State of Oregon, caring for the premature in the neonatal intensive care unit. Another is employed by the City of Chandler, in the Housing and Development Department. A third son is a major in the Army, stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany, near the French and Luxembourg borders. Karen has seven grandchildren.

For 16 years through the Red Cross, Karen volunteered her time to provide services to military families when a personal emergency arose or a difficult situation required assistance from the agency.

Since her husband has retired, traveling continues to be part of their life. "Now travel is for fun", Karen said. They have been all over Europe, their most recent trip was to Normandy. On Wednesday, for a change of pace, Karen donates her day to the gift shop at Desert Samaritan Hospital.

Karen's initial case was complex and emotionally draining and she felt as if she spun her wheels much of the time. She attributes her forbearance and her continuation with the CASA program to her mentor, Jackie Flowers, who gave her support and insight, enabling her to see the assignment to completion. Her most rewarding appointment was for six brothers, backing their cause over a period of years, until all six were adopted into two homes.

As a mentor, Karen sees many CASAs intimidated at first, believing they do not have enough education or the right education to deal adequately with these children's issues. In her experience, Karen said "a CASA needs common sense, first and foremost." The ability to reason and the passion to help are the tools needed to gather information, problem solve and sometimes neutralize situations. She said CASAs are credible advocates, not owing allegiance to any bureaucracy or institution. Their only agenda is to recommend to the court how the child's situation can be improved.

Karen expects she has seen the best and the worst of circumstances, seen every type of abuse, has been discouraged with the outcome of some cases and heartened with the outcome of others. As there are not enough CASAs for all the children, those who have CASAs are in the direst of circumstances, their situations the most complicated and the least safe. CASAs are not going to change the entire life of the child, Karen said. The assignment and the hope is to change the situation that brought them in to care in the first place.

She reminds herself CASAs are not big brothers or big sisters or mentors, they are advocates. When her cases have been resolved and her advocacy no longer needed, Karen does not continue to pursue a relationship with her children. She expects it is a reminder to the child, although a gentle one, of his or her past abuse. She thinks her presence rekindles the memories which perhaps are best left in the past.

TRAINING

CASA Sponsored Training

Orientation Training: March 23-24. Friday's registration: 7:00 - 7:45 a.m., announcements at 7:45 a.m. Training from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat's registration: 7:45 - 8:00 a.m., announcements begin at 8:00 a.m., with day ending at 4:00 p.m. Lunch is served Both days of orientation for new CASAs. Training will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix.

Upcoming Case Selection Meeting: Thursday, March 29, Room 223, Durango, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., for February OT graduates.

Post Orientation Training: Thursday, April 19, SEF Juvenile Court at 1810 S. Lewis St., Saguaro Room, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. All new volunteers are required to attend this skills-based follow-up to orientation training. RSVP to the CASA office at (602) 506-4083 by Friday, March 3.

Community Sponsored Training

DCSD Statewide Conference: June 1-2, 2001, Mesa, Az. More than 800 CASA/FCRB volunteers, judges, court staff and other participants are expected to attend this year's DCSD statewide conference, "Building Our Children's Future Today." Conference details including registration and hotel information will be mailed in the spring. Registration will be free to all CASA/FCRB volunteers. For more info, contact Teri Page at: 602-542-9547 or Monica Snyder at: 602-364-0373.

Legal Perspectives of Dependency and Severance: Saturday, March 31, Room 223, Durango, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 12, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (location to be announced). Asst. Attorney

Generals, Jennifer Morse and Emily Halladay will discuss the dependency process, permanency planning, severance and adoption. Topics will also include information on provider agencies, special education and immigration.



On-Line Training

Go on-line with DCSD!
Resource Library
11 Training Modules

Training On-Line Addresses:
www.supreme.state.az.us/dcsd
www.supreme.state.az.us/casa
www.supreme.state.az.us/fcrb

National Training Available:

20th Annual - National CASA Conference - The Power of Hope in a Child's Life. May 19-22, Minneapolis, MN. Members and Non-members fees. For more information contact: 100 W. Harrison St., North Tower, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98119 and web site: staff@nationalcasa.org, www.nationalcasa.org.



Money Available for Relative Placements



A pilot DES program makes money available for relative placements of dependent children. "The Kinship Foster Care TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families), Child Only Assistance" program has money available with completion of an application and meeting certain guidelines. The contact person for the program is Belva Stites, and her phone number is: 602-542-2431. This is good news for CASA children and the extended families who care for them.

CASAs - Please remember to turn in your logs by the 15th of the month!!

CASA's Commended

Michelle Wright was commended by the FCRB for her dedication and work on the children's behalf.

The FCRB commended **Janet Kirkpatrick** for her efforts on behalf of one of her CASA children.

Peter Alper was officially commended from the Adult Probation Officer who said, "Thanks on behalf of the kids out there too! They need more who care like you do!"

Judy Stratford was commended by the FCRB as follows: "The Board commends the CASA for her continued efforts to actively advocate for the children's best interests.

The FCRB commended **Til Dunlop** for her dedication to the children on her case.

The FCRB commended the CASA, **Lynda Pederson**, for continuing to actively advocate for the children's best interest.

The Court commended Coordinator, **Bonnie Marcus**, and CASA, **Lori Ohmart** for disclosing the potential conflict for a Report and Review Hearing set to review the issue.

CASA **Karen Rubsam** was commended by the FCRB for her efforts on her CASA case.

The FCRB commends **Phyllis Rees** for her continued efforts on her CASA child's behalf.

Mary Jo Foster was commended by the FCRB for her efforts toward permanency for her CASA case children.

Lynda Jo Taylor was commended by the Court with the other involved parties for their hard work for the children.



Happy Birthday CASAs

Anita Singhal, 03/01
Barbara Hensing, 03/01
Frank Denz, 03/03
Joan Graham, 03/06
Teri Werner, 03/10

James Lee, 03/11
Jean Peirce, 03/12
Marchlarina Davis, 03/14
Linda Anderson, 03/15
Eileen Wells, 03/15
Kimberly Mantz, 03/18
Pamela Jones, 03/18
Karen Rush, 03/19
Barbara Wyllie, 03/20

Hart Gottliebson, 03/20
Elizabeth Forton, 03/25
Georgi Gold, 03/26
Margo Fitts, 03/28
Elizabeth Osborn, 03/30
Richard Nardizzi, 03/30
Kathleen Norton, 03/30
Kathleen Mucerino, 03/30
Beth Israel, 03/30

Pam Jones is leaving the program. Pam has served 2 CASA children and assisted the program in providing training to new CASAs. Thank you Pam for 3.5 years of service to the CASA program!

CASA's answers for inquiries regarding becoming a foster parent: Web Site: www.de.state.az.us

RESOURCES: In getting children the services they need check out www.nfpainc.org (National Foster Parent Association), scholarships, affiliated organizations - Links of Interest, State Association. OR call: 1-800-557-5238.

From the Desk of LaDonna Moss

Special Thanks to...



CASA
Recruiter
(602) 506-3930

...Kathleen Norton, Jackie Flowers and Marshall Porter for participating in the meeting with National CASA on January 31, 2001.

...Greg Broberg for developing a Power Point presentation for the Speaker's Bureau! He took it for a test drive at our staff meeting, and it was wonderful!

...Marshall Porter for speaking at a meeting of the "Phoenix 100 Black Men."

...Christine Downing for taking part in the ASU West Youth Summit panel discussions.

...Karen Tyrrell for granting an interview to two ASU West students who are getting degrees in Social Work. Several people have inquired about volunteering as a result of these sort of class projects!

A DOZEN FREE AND EASY WAYS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PROMOTE CASA

1. Wear a "Speak Up" or other CASA pin - appropriate CASA event - Ask your People will ask about it and then you can tell them the CASA story. program staff when there is an event, such as a volunteer recognition, to which you could bring some friends.
2. Talk to your seatmate when you travel - When you're on a plane or train, try to make sure the person sitting next to you learns about what you do for kids.
3. Use the CASA credit card - The artwork usually leads to a question and a discussion about what we do.
4. Leave CASA bookmarks in strategic locations - If you travel and are a member of an airline club, ask if you can leave them for people to pick up.
5. E-mail friends and colleagues - Your address book probably contains lots of people who would enjoy hearing about your work.
6. Invite five friends to attend the next
7. Have your employer print an article about CASA - Don't be afraid to suggest a feel-good article for the employee newsletter about the good volunteer work you are doing.
8. Use your car as an ad for CASA - Bumper stickers may be less popular these days, but that means there isn't as much competition for attention. Make sure that person staring at your bumper knows about CASA.
9. Write a letter to the editor - There aren't many days that go by without some news item that could be the occasion for a short letter to the editor about our work.
10. Call in to radio talk shows - If you hear

**Arizona Friends of
Foster Children Foundation**



**The Jan Lindsey
"I Can Do It!" Award**

The award is given to children who have made a remarkable change and/or improvement in their personal or academic life. Those recognized will epitomize the "I Can Do It!" philosophy, recognizing the child's ability to overcome past problems and obstacles that confront the child in out-of-home care. Recognition of personal improvements and efforts made by the children is weighed by the committee. This enables children who were "at the bottom" but have dramatically moved up the ladder toward success, to be recognized, along with children with more traditional stories. Entries must be in no later than April 6, 2001.

Award Criteria - Nomination Directions:

1. Only CASA volunteers and coordinators may submit nominations.
2. No recipient from the last three years are eligible to be nominated.
3. Complete nomination form with information regarding the child (form from CASA office).
4. Submit a 2 page typed narrative on the improvement the child has made since being in out-of-home care. The narrative should include information on (not pictures, newspaper articles or other support materials) *the child's extra-curricular involvement *the child's school performance, including participation in school activities, completion of homework and academic improvement *what citizenship qualities does this child express *share the child's goals and dreams *what area in the child's life does the child epitomize the "I Can Do It!" spirit.

AWARDS ARE: Certificate of Achievement-\$100 U.S. Savings Bond-\$50 Cash

ATTENTION CASAs! WE NEED HELP!

8 volunteers are needed to staff a table at the AZ Women's Expo! This event is at the Phoenix Civic Plaza, Sat. and Sun., March 31 and April 1, from 10:00a.m. to 6p.m. Volunteers are needed to work 2-hour shifts. After your shift is over go off and enjoy the free food, prizes, give-aways and live music, t.v. and radio shows. Call La Donna and sign up today!

someone discussing children's issues on the radio, try to get through to make a comment about your CASA work.

11. Volunteer to answer the phones for your local PBS station's fundraiser - Get others to join you, and wear CASA shirts.

12. Have your club schedule a presentation about CASA - Your program staff can arrange to have a copy of the new National CASA videotape available for the presentation.



Facts and Hard Realities Shaken Baby Syndrome



Every year an estimated 3,000 children are diagnosed with Shaken Baby Syndrome(SBS) of those, 25% will die, 60% suffer from permanent lifelong disabilities such as cerebral palsy, paralysis, epilepsy, blindness, deafness and learning/behavioral disorders. Who is most likely to do this to our babies? They are 37%- the biological father, 20.5%- boyfriends, 17.3%- female childcare providers and 12.6% mothers.

Positive coping skills when dealing with a crying baby:
> Make sure basic needs (food, diapering, appropriate clothing, etc.) are met. > Offer the baby a pacifier. > Take the baby for a walk or a ride in the car. > Walk the baby around in a snugly body carrier. > Call a friend, relative or neighbor to come over for support and/or take care of the child while you take a break. > Put the baby in the crib making sure they are safe, close the door and leave. Check on them every five minutes or so. > Call the national help lines provided by Childhelp USA: 1-800-4-A-CHILD or National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse: 1-800-CHILDREN.



Teen Link
helping teens
Find Answers

Teen Link is a free, 24-hour telephone information helpline with messages of interest to teens, their families, friends and teachers. At any time during a message, callers can connect with an Information and Referral Specialist for help with emergency situations or for referrals to other organizations. The informative messages are prepared by experts in the specific areas.

This library of 78 professionally pre-recorded messages is divided into 8 categories produced by Health-Line, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Categories include alcohol and other drugs, birth control and pregnancy, career and life choices, emotional concerns, family concerns, physical health, sexuality, school and social concerns.

(602) 235-9678 or (1-800) 235-9678



THE 4TH ANNUAL CASA PICNIC

Please join us for the 4th Annual CASA Picnic, sponsored by Kappa Alpha Theta Alumni Association on April 22 from 12:00pm - 3:00pm at Margaret Hance Park. The carnival-style picnic promises to be great fun for your CASA kids! CASAs are asked to bring their own drinks and to sign up to bring a side dish to share. The CASA staff will be cooking hot dogs again this year so come with an appetite and be prepared to play hard.

Recognition Banquet

Tuesday, April 24, 2001
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
at ASU Downtown Center

Arizona Supreme Court Dependent Children's Services Division Foster Care Review Board

REMOVAL REVIEW TEAM - FACTS

What is HB 2400? On April 18, Gov. Jane Dee Hull signed into legislation House Bill 2400, now codified as A.R.S. Section 8-822. This legislation created a new role for Foster Care Review Board volunteers on the Department of Economic Security/Administration of Children, Youth and Families "Removal Review Team." There are several components to this bill, only a few pertain specifically to the FCRB and FCRB volunteers: Pertinent elements of House Bill 2400 now known as AR.S. Section 8-822 are:

The removal reviews shall occur within 72 hours (formerly 48 hours) of the removal of a child from his/her home. The review team shall include a member of the local Foster Care Review Board.

Case managers will now be required to provide the FCRB written notice within ten business days of the date of the receipt of the FCRB Findings and Recommendations if DES or case manager intends to accept or not implement the Board's recommendations. This does not include the Board's findings.

The Court and DES shall review a local Foster Care Review Board's Findings and Recommendations at the next scheduled dependency review hearing and the Court shall address the Board's recommendations on the record. How judges choose to do this is discretionary.

What is a Removal Review? DES must review the case of each child that they remove from the care of their

biological parents, legal guardian or custodian prior to the dependency petition being filed.

The team includes the investigating case manager, the case manager supervisor, and an assistant program manager from the agency. Sometimes there is a third party present from the agency that is not directly involved in the case. This team can vary in each CPS district, but the team typically includes these individuals. Additionally, the law now requires that the review team include a physician for a child with a medical need or chronic illness.

The removal review team assesses options other than continued out of home placement including in-home services to the family.

The role as a FCRB volunteer will be dramatically different as a member of the removal review team. Questions being asked will concern removal rather than long term case management issues.

Each volunteer will be assigned to a different DES region/office and must commit to a minimum of at least one day per month. Depending on the number of volunteers that are recruited, the volunteer may be asked to commit

to at least one week a month at the beginning of this project.

The volunteer will be on-call for the days and time to which the volunteer has committed themselves. In most cases, notification will be made no less than thirty minutes prior to the review. The volunteer will attend these reviews at the Agency's assigned office. However, due to the short notice received, the volunteer will also have the option of participating telephonically.

Each volunteer will be required to attend a mandatory one day training. No volunteer may serve on a removal review team until this mandatory training has been completed.

Review team appointments are usually for three years. Appointments may be for less time if a member is appointed to fill a vacancy that has occurred prior to the expiration of a three year team.

Board members are not compensated for their time as this is a volunteer service. Volunteers will be reimbursed for mileage and meals according to state statutes.

HOW can you become a FCRB Removal Review Team volunteer - CALL: Connie Lopez at 602-542-9683.

CASA's info for the children: Peer Web Site for Foster Children
at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/~marier/sos/index1.html>



CASA PROGRAM STAFF DURANGO

Vacant	602.506.5221
Leslie Blakley	602.506.4082
La Donna Moss	602.506.3930
Laurie Laughlin	602.506.3934
Mark Koch	602.506.6491
Esperanza Tavena	602.506.4415
Otis R. Evans	602.506.4425
Mavis Monson	602.506.4083

MESA - (SEF)

Rita Flores	602.506.3935
Bonnie Marcus	602.506.3379

CASA VOLUNTEER MENTORS

Angela Ashley	480.922.5760
Beverly Burch	480.585.3042
Anne Donahoe	480.948.8540
Margo Fitts	602.473.0914
Jackie Flowers	602.265.3565
Dana Gilroy	480.283.1876
Hart Gottliebson	602.242.2397
Lynda Pederson	602.996.9394
Karen Tyrrell	480.839.4039
Linda Warfield	480.575.6904

Editor: Laurie Laughlin
Design & Production: Mavis Monson
Contributing Reporter: Liz Osborn
Apprentice: Otis R. Evans

CASA PROGRAM
Juvenile Court Center
Suite 130
3125 W. Durango
Phoenix, AZ 85009